

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MILI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR HILL TO BRIGADIER AGOSTI, COMMANDING
GENERAL (CG), ARGENTINE FORCE (AAF)

1. BRIGADIER GENERAL (LTGEN) AGOSTI RECEIVED AMBASSADOR HILL AT LATTER'S REQUEST AT 1100 HOURS, ON 26 APRIL 1976, IN THE AAF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. THE VISIT WAS RPIMARILY TO DISCUSS BRIGADIER AGOST'S UPCOMING TRIP TO AMERICAN AIR FORCE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE (CONJEFAMER). ACCOMPANYING THE AMBASSADOR WERE COLONEL NIBLACK, AIR ATTACHE; LTC VAZQUEZ ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHE, AND COLONEL SMITH, CHIEF OF THE AFSEC/USMILGP.

2. AMBASSADOR HILL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY BRIGADIER AGOSTI WHO RECALLED WITH PLEASURE THEIR PREVIOUS MEETING IN THE BRIGADIER'S OFFICE. AMBASSADOR HILL BEGAN BY WISHING BRIGADIER AGOSTI A PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE TRIP TO THE CONFERENCE. HE THEN ASSURED BRIGADIER AGOSTI THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL PLANNED, THE SCHEDULE FULL, AND THAT THE ATTENDEES WOULD BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF BY THE USAF WHO WILL HOS THE CONFERENCE, BUT THAT IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT ANY DESIRES OR SPECIAL NEEDS OF BRIGADIER AGOSTI WERE SEEN TO, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO KNOW IF THE BRIGADIER WAS GOING IN THE STATUS OF AAF CG ONLY, OR ALSO AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA. BRIGADIER AGOSTI ANSWERED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE WAS GOING AS AAF CG ONLY, BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THIS POSITION AS MEMBER OF THE JUNTA. THUS, HE WOULD NOT DELIBERATELY AVOID MATTERS WHICH PERTAINED
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TO HIS ROLE IN GOVERNMENT. HIS REASON WAS THAT THIS WOULD BE

HIS FIRST CONFERENCE AS CG AND HE DID NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS PLACING HIMSELF ABOVE HIS PEERS -- MANY OF WHOM HE DOES NOT KNOW -- BY VIRTUE OF HIS POSITION AS A JUNTA MEMBER.

3. AGOSTI CONTINUED BY STATING THAT HE HAD INVITED CHIEFS OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AIR FORCES TO TRAVEL WITH HIM IN AN AAF FOKKER F-28 TO PANAMA WHERE THE CHIEFS WILL BOARD A USAF AIRCRAFT FOR THE U.S. SO FAR THE AIR FORCE CHIEFS OF URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR HAD ACCEPTED. HE VENTURED THAT THE PERUVIAN CHIEF WOULD ACCEPT BUT STATED THAT GENERAL LEIGH, CHILEAN AF CG AND JUNTA MEMBER, HAD NOT. HE THEN QUALIFIED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT ABOUT TRAVELING ONLY AS CG BY SAYING THAT IF GENERAL LEIGH WAS GOING AS A JUNTA MEMBER, AS WELL AS CG OF THE CHILEAN AF, THE ARGENTINE JUNTA WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER HIS (AGOSTI'S) STATUS. HE ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT IF THE JUNTA DECIDED TO SEND HIM IN A DUAL ROLE, HE WOULD ADVISE THE AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY.

4. NOTING THAT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE INCLUDES A VISIT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON 11 MAY, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF AGOSTI WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANYONE SPECIFICALLY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON GOVERNMENT MATTERS. AGOSTI REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, BUT AGAIN SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ADVISED IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGES.

3. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED AGOSTI WHAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE IN THE EVENT OF REQUESTS FROM THE U.S. PRESS FOR INTERVIEWS OR STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD PLACE AGOSTI IN THE ROLE OF A JUNTA MEMBER, THIS BEING LIKELY SINCE HE IS THE FIRST HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO VISIT THE U.S. AGOSTI ADMITTED HE TOO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AND STATED THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO AVOID PRESS CONTACTS. THE AMBASSADOR VENTURED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE MADE SIMPLER BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BEFOREHAND THAT AGOSTI WAS COMING ONLY IN THE STATUS OF THE CG, AAF, TO A STRICTLY MILITARY CONFERENCE. AGOSTI AGREED THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA.

6. THE AMBASSADOR TURNED TO THE TOPIC OF MILITARY AID PROGRAMS AND THEIR PRESENT AND FORECASTED REDUCTIONS, ASKING AGOSTI IF CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE WAS ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS OR WOULD HE RATHER DEFER IT UNTIL HIS MEETING WITH GENERAL BROWN AND/OR GENERAL JONES. AGOSTI REPLIED THAT HE HAD PREPARED A LIST OF ITEMS TO DISCUSS WITH GENERAL JONES AND WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THEN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT COL SMITH IF HE NEEDED FURTHER DETAILS ON MAP PROGRAMS.

7. THE MEETING ENDED ON A VERY CORDIAL NOTE, AT 1130 HOURS, WITH BRIGADIER AGOSTI WARMLY THANKING THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS

CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR HILL IN TURN EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE
DESIRE FOR CONTINUED FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN THE TWO AIR FORCES AND BETWEEN THE AAF AND THE US
EMBASSY.
HILL

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